REMARKS

Claims 1 - 4 are pending in the present application. By this Amendment, claims 1-4 have

each been amended. No new matter has been added. It is respectfully submitted that this

Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated July 28, 2005.

Examiner Interview:

The courtesy extended by Examiner Henn to Applicant's representative, Tom Brown,

during the October 20, 2005 telephone Interview is gratefully appreciated. The substance of such

interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

As to the Merits:

As to the merits of this case, the Examiner relies on the newly cited reference of Kijima et

al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,882,366) in setting forth the following rejection:

claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagasaki et al.

(U.S. Patent No. 5,153,730, of record) in view of Kijima et al. and Anderson (U.S. Patent No.

6,137,534, of record).¹

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

¹ It appears that the Examiner intended to reject claims 1-4 in part on Anderson given the Examiner's reliance on

Anderson in pages 3 and 4 of the Action.

According to the present invention, recorded to a recording medium in a coded state are a

plurality of frames of main image data and a plurality of frames of size-reduced image data which

are obtained by successive picture-taking operations. Herein, a main image coder codes a single

frame of main image data every time a single picture-taking operation is carried out so as to

create a single frame of coded main image data which is reduced in a data amount prior to the

taking of the next successive picture. A main image writer writes the single frame of coded main

image data to an internal memory every time a single coding operation is carried out by the main

image coder. The plurality of frames of size-reduced image data is coded by a size-reduced image

coder after ending the successive picture taking operations.

Thus, a single frame of coded main image data is written to the internal memory every

time a single coding operation is carried out, and a plurality of frames of size-reduced image data

is coded after ending the successive picture taking operations. Therefore, it is possible to reduce a

capacity of the internal memory and shorten a picture taking interval in the successive picture

taking operations.

In contrast, Nagasaki et al. disclose to temporarily write to a memory card a plurality of

frames of still image data obtained by successive picture taking operations and subject each

frame of the still image data to a data processing such as data compression after ending the

successive picture taking operations. However, Nagasaki et al. fail to disclose or remotely

suggest anything about a constitution of the present invention which codes a plurality of frames

of size-reduced image data after ending the successive picture taking operations.

Kajima et al. disclose to read out pixel signals concerning K (K is a positive integer)

vertically continuous lines of a CCD. However, Kajima et al. also fail to disclose or remotely

suggest anything about a constitution of the present invention which codes a plurality of frames

of size-reduced image data after ending the successive picture taking operations.

Anderson discloses to record to a removable memory main image data and size-reduced

image data i.e. screennail image data in a compression state. However, no successive picture

taking operations are carried out in Anderson, and therefore, Anderson fails to disclose or

remotely suggest anything about coding a plurality of frames of the size-reduced image data after

ending the successive picture taking operations.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that it is not possible to reach the present

invention from each of the references or a combination thereof, and therefore, the present

invention is patentable.

Response under 37 CFR 1.111

Serial No. 09/725,147

Attorney Docket No. 001574

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicant

submits that that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicant

requests such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the

Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to

expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate

extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect

to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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